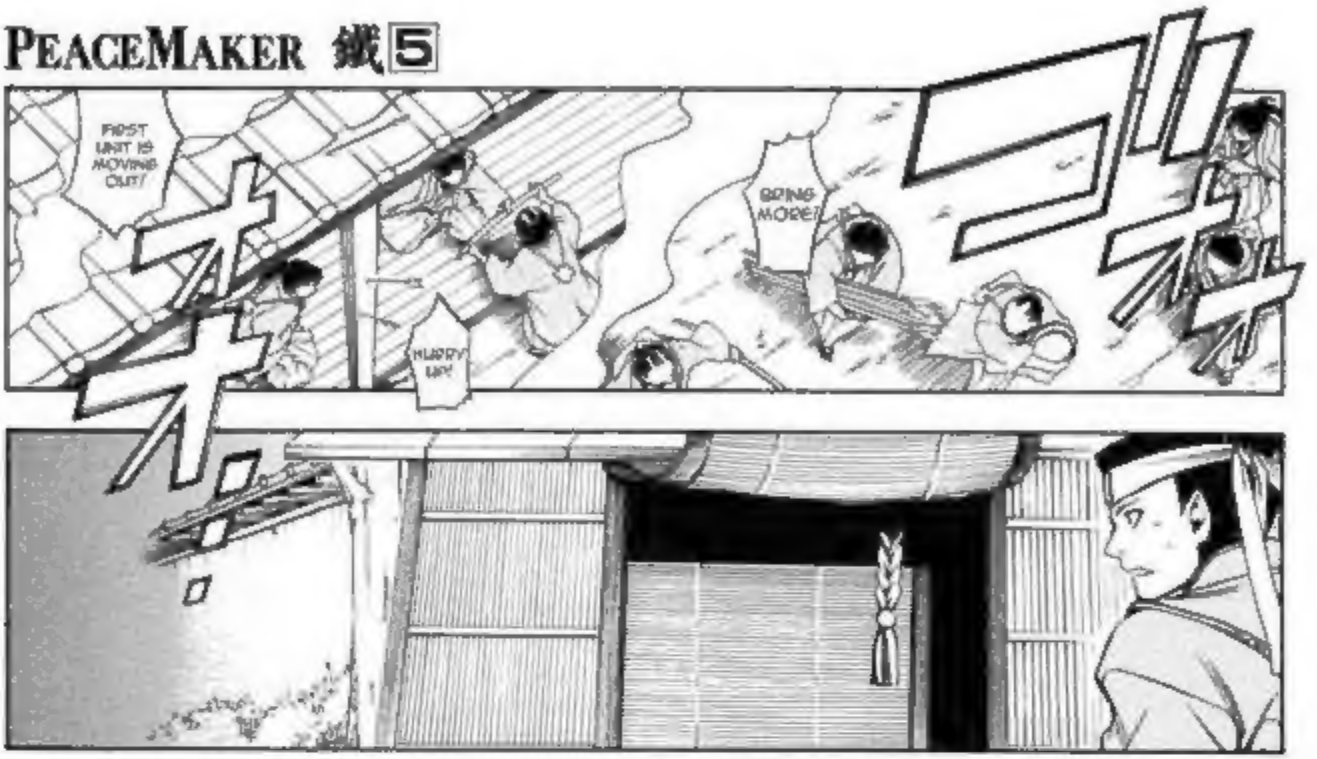
CHAPTER 24
TARGET


FIRST UNIT IS MOVING OUT!
HURRY UP!
BRING MORE!
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AHA... FUFUFU, YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR COOL, HANDSOME MAN~
I'D LOVE TO KNOW HOW YOU PULLED THAT, PRETTY BOY.
SO YOU'VE COME BACK TO LIFE?
.....

パーキン!!
HEH
I SEE.

I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
仕：そ
NICE TRICK.
い。う
す？
FIRST OF ALL...
FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE KONDOU-KYOKUCHOU TO BE BEHEADED IN APOLOGY FOR BETRAYING ME.
AND THEN I'D LIKE THAT IDIOT'S HEAD TO BE GIVEN TO ME TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE.
ONE LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR SPARING THE REST OF YOUR MEN? I DON'T THINK MY CONDITIONS ARE TOO HARSH.

SECONDLY,
I WANT ONE HUNDRED OF YOUR MOST SKILLED MEN FOR MY GORYOUEJI.
THEY'LL REALLY HELP OUT WHEN I OVERTHROW THE SHOGUNATE~
OH, AND AFTER THAT THEY CAN RETURN TO THEIR FIELDS OR THEIR MOUNTAINS OR WHATEVER.
AND THIRDLY,
I WANT YOU TO BE MY PET.
WHEN THEY SEE YOU KNEEL AT MY FEET AS MY SERVANT,
THE SHINSENGUMI'S PRIDE WILL BE IN RUINS.

I DO HOPE YOU'LL THINK OF YOUR FRIENDS ...
WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR DESCISION ...?

KONDOU-KYOKUCHOU ...?
HMM?
WHATEVER THE REASON, I'M LEAVING IT ALL TO TOSHI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, YOU'RE SAFE IN HERE.
B... BUT...
ARE YOU SURE, KYO-KUCHOU?
MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO FORCE SOME KIND OF DEAL...
WHO KNOWS? I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHT-EST IDEA!
THOSE GUYS OUT THERE... WERE THEY ALL OR-DERED BY ITOU?
BUT WHY WOULD HE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FU-KUCHOU WOULD SAY...
IF HE WAS ASKED TO SELL THE SHINSEN-GUMI...?
.....
DID YOU SAY...?
.... WHAT ...

I SAID THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH.
EVERY MAN IN THE SHINSEN-GUMI HAS PLEDGED HIS FIDELITY AND HIS LIFE.
YOU THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN BE GIVEN AWAY LIKE A PRIZE?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD CRUSH THE SHINSEN-GUMI...
... WITH TWO OR THREE HUNDRED HIRED THUGS?

THEY WON'T DIE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY TO KILL THEM!
UNTIL THEIR KYO-KUCHOU SAYS "JOB WELL DONE" ...
I BELIEVE IN THEM.

KILL THOSE MIBU WOLVES !!
AHHH-HHH!!
AAHH !!

SHIT !!
HOW MANY ARE THERE!? I KEEP CUTTING AND CUTTING BUT THEY WON'T STOP!!
GA AH!!
WHERE IS SAITOU-SENSEI!? SENSEI ISN'T HERE!?
!?
WHAT !?

SLAA!
WAH!

I...
ICHI-
MURA
!!?
ﾅﾆ!!
UWAAH!
GYAAAAHHH

あああ
HE HIT EVERY ONE OF THEM IN A VITAL SPOT!
JUST LOOK!
A... AMAZING, ICHIMURA ..!
.....!
IS THIS WHAT NAGAKURA-SENSEI WAS TALKING ABOUT.?

YOU THINK WE'LL LOSE THAT EASY!?
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY OF YOU THERE ARE IF YOU'RE ALL WEAK!
WHO WANTS TO MESS WITH THE SHINSENGUMI NOW!!?
IWA AAH
IT HURTS
OKAY
WHO'S NEXT?

……

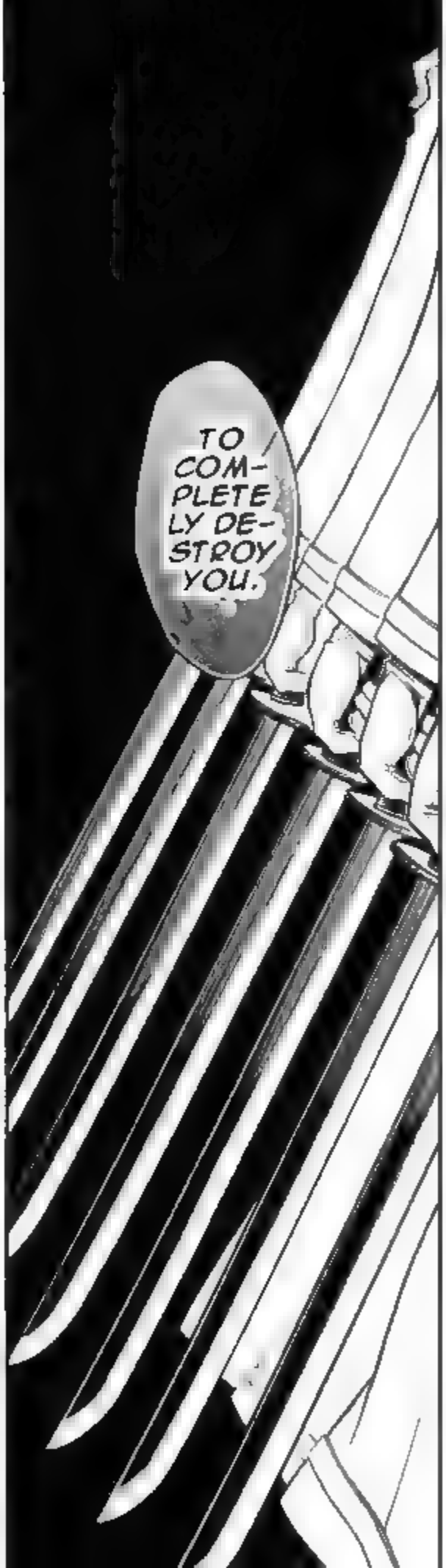
WE'RE THE KAIEN-TAI
WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH THOSE ROUNIN, AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO JOIN IN THIS BLOODSHED
ARE YOU ICHIMURA TETSUNO-SUKE?
YOU, THE RED-HA RED BOY

WE HAVE ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE..
PLEASE DO NOT INTERFERE OR RESIST

IT'S BECOME TOO QUIET
OUT SIDE

IT'S SOME-ONE STRONG
HUH?

SOME-ONE STRONG
HAS COME
TETSU-KUN


TO COM-PLETE LY DE-STROY YOU.

AH!
DIE !!

"HUFF"
"HUFF"
.....
ICHI MU-RA!
I
THEY WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO.!?
YES, SIR!
HAMA GU-CHI!
FUCK! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM!?

THESE GUYS ARE STRONG - IT'S TAKING ALL I'VE GOT JUST TO DODGE THEM!!
THIS HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MIS-TAKE ...
MI-YATA -SAN !?
AHHHHHH!!
ICHI-MURA! IT'S NO USE TRYING TO REASON WITH THEM!!
QUICKLY, RUN TO THE BACK WHERE THE FUKU-CHOU IS!!
GO!!
ME AND HAMAGUCHI WILL HOLD THEM...

I THOUGHT YOU ONLY WANTED TO KILL ME!?
DON'T HURT ANYONE ELSE!!
YOU BAS-TARDS ...

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANT TO KILL ME, BUT I DON'T INTEND TO DIE!!
YOUR TARGET IS ME, AND ONLY ME!
WE HAVE OUR REASON, BUT WE WANT TO ASK YOURS.
VERY WELL.
WE'RE SURE THAT YOU WILL RECOG-NISE OUR LEGITIMATE CLAIM.
AND IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER, WE'LL REPLY BY FILLING YOU WITH LEAD...
WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?

THE MAN YOU KILLED ...
WAS THE TREASURE OF JAPAN ...!!
THE MAN I KILLED...?